

OMAN

a. SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
I. TERRITORIAL SEA	Jul 72	Decree	12nm	
	Feb 81	Royal Decree No. 15/81	12nm	Innocent passage through and over international straits. This requirement is not recognized by the U.S. U.S. conducted regular operational assertions (transits) between 1983 and 1996.
	Aug 89	Declaration on ratifying the LOS Convention	12nm	Innocent passage with prior permission for warships, nuclear-powered ships, submarines and ships carrying dangerous substances. This requirement is not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested requirement in 1991 and conducted operational assertions in 1991, 1992 and 1996.
II. ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jul 72	Decree		Enabling legislation for straight baselines.
	Jul 82	Royal Decree No. 38/82		Established straight baselines. U.S. does not recognize excessive baseline claims; see LIS No. 113. Diplomatic protest made in 1991. Operational assertions made in 1991-1993 and 1996.
	Jun 82	Notice		Coordinates published.
III. CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Aug 89	Declaration on ratifying LOS Convention	24nm	
IV. CONTINENTAL SHELF	Jul 72	Decree	1958 DEF	
	Feb 81	Royal Decree No. 15/81		
V. FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jul 72	Decree	50nm	Fishing zone.
	Jun 77	Decree No. 44/77	200nm	Fishing zone.
	Feb 81	Decree No. 15/81	200nm	EEZ.
VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION	Jan 75	Marine Pollution Control Law	38nm	Pollution free-zone.
	Feb 82	Royal Decree No. 10/82	200nm	Environmental protection.
VII. MARITIME BOUNDARIES	May 75	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Iran EIF; seen LIS No. 67.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
VIII. LOS CONVENTION	Jul 83			Signed, with a declaration that the provisions on innocent passage, and straits passage do not preclude the coastal state from taking measures to protect its peace and security.
	Aug 89			Ratified, with declarations.

b. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

1. STRAIGHT BASELINES

A. LEGISLATION. Following is the text of a Government of Oman Notice of 17 June 1982 specifying straight baseline coordinates:

I, Yousuf Al Alawi Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; In pursuance of the Royal Decree Number 15/81 concerning the territorial sea and economic zone, and the Royal Decree Number 38/82 relating to the application of the straight baselines system for the demarcation of baselines for the territorial sea, the internal waters and the enclosed waters;

Have hereby issued the following notification:

Article 1

By application of Article 2 paragraph 'c' of the Royal Decree Number 15/81 referred to above, the fixing of the straight baselines for any part of the Sultanate of Oman and the lines for enclosed waters lying between gulfs and bays and also the waters in between islands and the mainland coast shall be on the following basis:

- (a) The co-ordinates of latitudes and longitudes mentioned below shall determine the positions of points for drawing the straight baselines for the Sultanate of Oman.
- (b) The straight lines joining the points between the co-ordinates of latitudes and longitudes referred to in the preceding paragraph shall determine the straight baselines as provided by the Royal Decree Number 15/81.
- (c) The co-ordinates of latitudes and longitudes referred to shall also be the basis for the demarcation of the internal and enclosed waters in the Sultanate:

CO-ORDINATES OF POINTS

NUMBER OF THE POINT	NORTH LATITUDES	EAST LONGITUDES
GROUP "A"		
1.	26°03'04.703"	56°05'01.869"
2.	26°04'04"	56°05'22"
3.	26°13'30"	56°10'52"
4.	26°14'28"	56°11'34"
5.	26°15'08"	56°12'19"
6.	26°22'29"	56°21'02"
7.	26°30'19"	56°30'34"
8.	26°29'50"	56°31'37"
9.	26°29'11"	56°32'14"
10.	26°21'59"	56°32'13"
11.	26°10'32"	56°32'58"
12.	26°05'02"	56°28'34"
13.	25°56'30"	56°28'17"
14.	25°48'32"	56°22'02"
15.	25°45'10"	56°19'55"
16.	25°37'32.345"	56°16'03.950"

GROUP "B"

NUMBER OF THE POINT	NORTH LATITUDES	EAST LONGITUDES
17.	23°46'40"	57°41'38"
18.	23°47'00"	57°46'00"
19.	23°50'28"	57°57'38"
20.	23°51'26"	58°03'41"
21.	23°52'00"	58°06'00"
22.	23°52'06"	58°07'09"
23.	23°50'28"	58°10'33"
24.	23°40'55"	58°29'50"
25.	23°37'38"	58°35'29"
26.	23°31'18"	58°45'09"

GROUP "C"

27.	20°57'18"	58°49'00"
28.	20°41'29"	58°54'38"
29.	20°41'08"	58°54'47"
30.	20°30'12"	58°58'39"
31.	20°30'00"	58°57'18"
32.	20°16'29"	58°46'41"
33.	20°12'44"	58°43'20"
34.	20°10'36"	58°39'22"
35.	20°09'18"	58°38'18"
36.	20°20'30"	58°19'30"
37.	20°19'12"	57°59'00"

GROUP "D"

38.	17°55'02"	56°20'29"
39.	17°30'17"	56°24'02"
40.	17°29'42"	56°02'33"
41.	17°29'12"	55°51'48"
42.	17°27'57"	55°35'03"
43.	17°24'00"	55°17'02"

Article 2

The provisions of this Notice shall come into force from the date of issue of this Notice and it shall be published in the Official Gazette.

B. ANALYSIS The following analysis of the Omani straight baseline system is extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 113, "Straight Baseline Claims: Djibouti and Oman," 22 April 1992.

Oman consists of two non-contiguous regions separated by the United Arab Emirates. It occupies the northern extremity of the Ru'us (peninsula) al Jibal, comprising the Musandam Peninsula and offshore islands. The major territorial segment of Oman is situated in the south and west, below the 25th parallel of north latitude, along the shores of the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Generally, Oman's coastline is quite smooth. The straight baseline claim involves less than half Oman's coastline. In those areas where straight baselines are not claimed the territorial sea is measured from the normal baseline, which, according to Article 5 of the LOS Convention "is the low-water line along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the coastal State."

OMAN'S STRAIGHT BASELINES

GROUP "A"	
(Along the Musandam Peninsula)	
<u>Segment</u>	<u>Length (miles)</u>
1-2	1.03
2-3	10.63
3-4	1.15
4-5	0.95
5-6	10.73
6-7	11.59
7-8	1.06
8-9	0.85
9-10	7.18
10-11	11.44
11-12	6.76
12-13	8.51
13-14	9.74
14-15	3.86
15-16	8.36

GROUP "B"	
(Coastline near Muscat)	
<u>Segment</u>	<u>Length (miles)</u>
17-18	4.02
18-19	11.21
19-20	5.63
20-21	2.20
21-22	1.06
22-23	3.52
23-24	23.60
24-25	6.13
25-26	10.90

GROUP "C"	
(Along Oman's east coast)	
<u>Segment</u>	<u>Length (miles)</u>
27-28	16.62
28-29	0.38
29-30	11.48
30-31	1.28
31-32	16.76
32-33	4.89
33-34	4.29
34-35	1.64
35-36	20.90
36-37	19.31

GROUP "D"	
(Along Oman's southeast coast)	
<u>Segment</u>	<u>Length (miles)</u>
38-39	24.88
39-40	20.54
40-41	10.29
41-42	16.06
42-43	17.67

Group "A": Basepoints 1-5 are located along a smooth coast with no islands thereby not justifying straight baselines. The claimed baselines have little effect on the territorial sea limit. Although point 6 is on an island, segment 5-6 essentially closes two juridical bays.

Group "B": Segments 10-11 and 11-12 should be modified to ignore point 11. The Musandam Peninsula is deeply indented here, but the island on which point 11 is situated is the only island in the area, thus it alone would not constitute fringing islands. From point 10 straight lines could be drawn to connect the various headlands of the Musandam Peninsula to point 12.

The coastline from point 12 to point 16 is relatively smooth, with small juridical bays. Instead of claiming straight baselines in this area, several bay closing lines would be more proper.

Group "C": In Group "C" segment 36-37 properly closes a juridical bay. In this area there is only one large island, Al Masirah, which in itself does not constitute fringing islands. The mainland coast is not deeply indented. Segments 27-28 and 35-36 close off entrances to the Strait of Khawr Al Masirah.

Group "D": The coastline in the area of Group "D" is smooth and the four small islands do not fringe the coast. Thus, this is not a proper place to draw straight baselines

c. MARITIME BOUNDARIES

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY AGREEMENT: OMAN-IRAN

Article 1

The line dividing the continental shelf lying between the territory of Iran on the one side and the territory of Oman on the other side shall consist of geodetic lines between the following points in the sequence hereinafter set out:

Point (1) is the most western point which is the intersection of the geodetic line drawn between point (0) having the coordinates 55° 42' 15" E 26° 14' 45" N and point (2) having the coordinates of 55° 47' 45" E 26° 16' 35" N with the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Ras Al-Khaimah.

POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
2	55 47 45	26 16 35
3	55 52 15	26 18 50
4	56 06 45	26 28 40
5	56 08 35	26 31 05
6	56 10 25	26 32 50
7	56 14 30	26 35 25
8	56 16 30	26 35 35
9	56 19 40	26 37 00
10	56 33 00	26 42 15
11	56 41 00	26 44 15
12	56 44 00	26 41 35
13	56 45 15	26 39 40
14	56 47 45	26 35 15
15	56 47 30	26 25 15
16	56 48 05	26 22 00
17	56 47 50	26 16 30
18	56 48 00	26 11 35
19	56 50 15	26 03 05
20	56 49 50	25 58 05
21	56 51 30	25 45 20

Point (22) is the most southern point located at the intersection of the geodetic demarcation line drawn from point (21) (specified above at an azimuth angle of 190° 00' 00" and the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Sharaj.